

GIS News

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Revised Longview City Council Districts a Work in Progress

Longview News-Journal
June 2, 2011
By: Jimmy Isaac

It could take several months for city geographic information systems officials and an outside consulting firm to determine new municipal district boundaries for Longview, according to city spokesman Shawn Hara.

The city has until next year's municipal elections to complete a new map of Longview's six City Council districts, Hara said. Redistricting will be based on population from the 2010 U.S. Census.

San Antonio-based Rolando L. Rios & Associates has contracted with Longview to provide the services at a rate of \$30,000, plus additional costs not to exceed \$3,000, Hara said.

"The plan will be presented, and there will be at least one public hearing before it is voted on, then sent to the U.S. Department of Justice for approval," he said. "The tentative goal would be to have it done in time for next year's election, but I don't think you are absolutely required to have it done until 2014. But we would like to have it done by next year, if possible."

The Tyler City Council set new boundaries for its council districts one week ago and is awaiting federal approval, according to a news release.

Hara said he is not sure whether Longview's new council boundaries will significantly change from the past decade. Between 2000 and 2010, the city grew from 73,344 residents to 80,455 residents, marking a 9.7 percent increase, according to census data.

The consulting firm and city GIS officials likely will submit multiple options for City Council members to consider, he said.

"Your goal is to get the populations relatively equal among the districts," Hara said.

In 2012, the city will hold elections for districts 1 (west) and 2 (southwest). District 2 Councilman Daryl Williams is serving his third and final term in office, while District 1 Councilman John Sims is eligible for another term in office when his second term ends. Their two districts are separated by Loop 281 in the Greggton area.

Longview, Texas: The Benefits of Cityworks GIS-Centric Enterprise Solution

Cityworks InPrint

Spring 2011

By: Laur Carr, GIS Project Manager, NTB Associates; Justin Cure, GIS Manager, City of Longview

The City of Longview, Texas, recently implemented Cityworks and is already experiencing substantial benefits with the system. Longview first implemented Cityworks in their Public Works Department (Water, Sewer, Streets, Traffic, and Drainage Divisions) and soon after expanded to Parks, Buildings/Facilities, Warehouse, and Wastewater Treatment Plant. The many positive outcomes resulting from Cityworks include increased GIS capabilities, better reporting, time and cost savings, and improved communication throughout the enterprise. Moreover, staff are very enthusiastic with the results and future potential of the system.

[Cityworks - Longview, Texas: The Benefits of Cityworks GIS-Centric Enterprise Solution](#)

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Some Honorary Street, Road Names Seldom Catch On

Longview News-Journal

December 6, 2010

By: Jimmy Isaac

Before Target, Hollywood Theater and Buffalo Wild Wings, before the University of Texas at Tyler-Longview Center and back when the Northeast Longview skyline was dominated with tall pine trees, there was the sign denoting U.S. 259 North as Sam Mc-Kelvey Parkway.

The designation has existed since the 1970s, when Gregg County named its busiest road for Sam Newton McKelvey, a farmer and conservationist who lived in the Judson community sliced by U.S. 259.

Sam McKelvey Parkway has become hot property in the past decade, with the development of Longview Towne Center igniting a flurry of retail, education and specialty outlets.

However, many businesses list their address as U.S. 259 North. Some, like Target, list their address as North Eastman Road, even though the Eastman designation applies only to U.S. 259 south of Loop 281 and not where Target is located.

Laverne Browning-Mc-Kelvey, 89, said she is among the last survivors of the McKelvey family.

"Sam McKelvey is dead, and his son is dead, and all of them except me, they're dead," she said from her room at a local assisted-living residence. "I was his daughter-in-law."

Sam McKelvey was born June 11, 1889. After his death on June 21, 1974, he was buried in Alpine Presbyterian Church Cemetery on Tryon Road.

Browning-McKelvey said her father-in-law was one of the older, established men in the Judson community.

Other than being a farmer, she said she never knew exactly how McKelvey received the county's honor.

"He was a dirt farmer, you might say," she said, "and then my husband was a dairy farmer."

Despite the name confusion, Longview geo-information systems manager Justin Cure said roads like Sam McKelvey Parkway cause no problems for local law enforcement.

He compared Sam Mc-Kelvey Parkway to Loop 281, which is named Tomlinson Parkway through much of north Longview in honor of 1950s city mayor J. Clyde Tomlinson. Only Longview High School, however, identifies Tomlinson Parkway in its address.

Another such roadway in Gregg County is Texas 322 in Lakeport, also known as Gardiner Mitchell Parkway.

Roads with honorary names are no different from expressway designations in larger cities, such as Ronald Reagan Memorial Highway for Interstate 20 in North Texas or Tom Landry Parkway for Interstate 30 between Dallas and Fort Worth, Cure said.

When programming streets and addresses into public service databases, Cure said names like Sam McKelvey and Tomlinson are linked to certain streets, so if someone in an emergency situation lists those seldom-used names, emergency dispatchers can still find their location.

"It won't cause any kind of confusion," Cure said. "We actually keep that information in an alias field, kind of like a secondary name field, so that (dispatchers) would be able to find it."

GIS Day 2010

November 17, 2010

The City of Longview GIS Division presented a three-day geographic extravaganza this year by taking GIS Day 2010 on the road. Almost 700 students at Pine Tree Intermediate and Middle Schools (4th, 5th, and 6th grades) were treated to an informative, fun, and enjoyable presentation that incorporated various GIS-related components. Two educational short films were shown that presented an abbreviated history of GIS as well as some of the current uses of GIS in the municipal sense. Interactive WebMap, GPS, iPad, and BlackBerry were utilized to demonstrate the many uses of GIS in our rapidly changing technological world. During the course of each presentation, the children were encouraged to ask questions, and they excitedly did so while showing unbridled enthusiasm for all things geographic. At presentation's end, the students and teachers were given earth-shaped stress balls as a keepsake reminder of the wonderful world of GIS. A rewarding experience for all involved! – Roger Moser, Jr., City of Longview GIS Data Specialist

Council Approves \$100k for Public Works Software

Longview News-Journal
February 16, 2009
By: Jimmy Isaac

A new streamlined software program could mean faster response to Longview infrastructure problems and shorter wait times for residents who need water or sewer repairs, authorities said Friday.

The City Council on Thursday authorized spending up to \$100,000 for a work order management system based on the city's Geographic Information System.

For more information call: 903-720-2846

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[2] <http://www.azteca.com/media/inprint/InPrintSpring11.pdf>

[3] <http://gis.longviewtexas.gov/services-contact#GIS@LongviewTexas.gov>